

NEW YORK'S POSTOFFICES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

NEW YORK, May 3.—The business men of New York are keenly disappointed because the last Congress out from the appropriation bill the \$2,000,000 called for to secure the site for a new general post-office building. Yet there has been no great outcry over this, for the reason that the experience of a century has demonstrated that this city's demands for postal facilities must be met, and that an act of obstruction or negligence by one Congress must be speedily rectified by another.

Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the exact site "uptown" that should be chosen for a new general post-office, opinion, as expressed through official and unofficial sources, is unanimous on the point that the government must make provisions for one. Consequently, while delay is annoying, it is not discouraging to those who understand the situation.

This demand for a new general post-office "uptown," that is, in the vicinity of Thirtieth Street, where it will be located, makes it interesting to look back at the location of New York city's postoffice buildings, that is, of the general postoffice buildings. The branch buildings have become so numerous that to follow them would take time to follow the lines of this city's growth.

Colonial days can be briefly dealt with. There was no established mail service, but the taverns of the town accepted the responsibility of receiving communications and if those for whom they were intended called for them, well and good. The British Government sought to make the handling of letters a branch of the customs service, but the colonists did not like kindly to it, and it failed.

Still, it was under the direction of a British postmaster-general that New York city had its first postoffice building designated and the postal routes were established. "The New York Gazette" for the first week of May, 1782, contained the announcement of the location of a postoffice in "the uppermost of the two houses on Broadway, opposite Beaver Street."

It remained there for twenty years, at least, according to the records, but it failed primarily because it was a British institution and repellant to the spirit of independence even then manifesting itself. The colonists preferred their own private means of mail carrying and delivery.

With independence the depleted and neglected basis for a postal system established by the British Government won favor with the Americans, for the need of it was making itself felt. Not until 1804, however, did New York city get a general postoffice that was a publicly supported, responsible institution.

Theodore Bailey was the postmaster, and as he lived at No. 29 William Street, on the corner of what is now Exchange Place, then called Garden Street, he established the postoffice on the first floor of his house. Incidentally, Postmaster Bailey looked up the postoffice at meal time and his fellow townsmen could find him in a 12 by 16 room, ready to do business or to gossip.

Yellow fever was responsible for the office. In 1822 the plague seized upon the city. Almost the entire population fled to the "suburban district" above Duane Street, at which point a high fence was built across the city—a sort of danger line. The general postoffice moved with the population—as postoffices always will—and was established in Academy Street, now Franklin Street, in Old Greenwich Village.

The yellow fever subsided, and the general postoffice was moved back to Postmaster Bailey's house in William Street. There it remained until 1825, when, under a popular demand for better facilities, the Government leased the Academy Building, in which is now Exchange Street. The building had long been a

THE OLD MIDDLE DUTCH CHURCH, DEDICATED 1729, MADE A BRITISH MILITARY PRISON 1776. In this historic building, at the north-east corner of Nassau and Cedar Streets, which was torn down in 1832, the New York Postoffice was housed for thirty years.



THE MOST FAMOUS POSTOFFICE SITE. Nassau, Cedar, William and Liberty Streets. The Middle Dutch Church Postoffice stood on the Nassau and Cedar Streets the home offices of The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

next important move of the general post-office was the removal of the postoffice to the corner of Nassau and Cedar Streets. The arrival of the mail coaches from Albany, Boston, Philadelphia and other points was an important feature of the city's social and com-

mercial life. The local carrier system was instituted.

In 1827 the Merchants' Exchange opened a new building in Wall Street, between William and Pearl Streets, and the general postoffice was removed to its basement. There it remained until 1836, when the building was destroyed in a fire that devastated fifty acres of the business part of the city. Temporary quarters for the general postoffice were taken in some stores in Pine Street, near Nassau Street.

The city came to the front in this emergency and offered as a general postoffice a building which stood in the City Hall Park, called the Rotunda. It was absolutely unsuited for the purpose. The Chamber of Commerce and other business bodies started an agitation, which resulted, in 1846, in the Government leasing for the general postoffice the Middle Dutch Church, at Nassau and Cedar Streets, a part of the block now occupied by the home building of The Mutual Life Insurance Company.

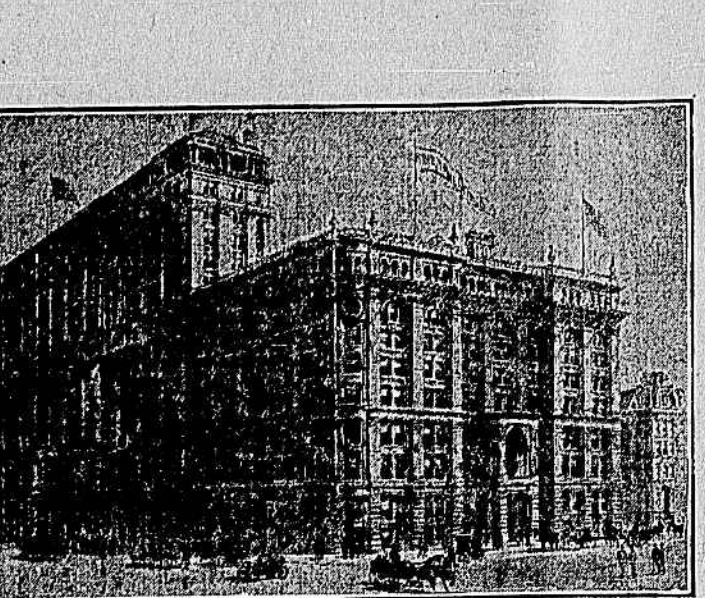
And now the same force that for a century past has compelled adequate provi-

half the total receipts of the Postoffice Department of the United States.

The old Middle Dutch Church, at Nassau and Cedar Streets, continued to be the general postoffice of the city of New York until the present building was opened, in 1876. It was a substantial stone building, 75 by 100 feet. The Federal Government would pay only \$20,000 for it when it was wanted for a general post-office, and as the congregation demanded \$30,000, the other \$10,000 was raised by subscription among the city's merchants. Something of the history of the office is told on this tablet, set into the corner of the Mutual Life Building, where the church stood.

HERE STOOD THE MIDDLE DUTCH CHURCH, DEDICATED A. D. 1729, MADE A BRITISH MILITARY PRISON 1776. RESTORED 1790. OCCUPIED AS A UNITED STATES POSTOFFICE 1846-1876. TAKEN DOWN 1882. THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

And now the same force that for a century past has compelled adequate provi-



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It is a coincidence worthy of note that from this site The Mutual Life Company has since directed the operation of a business that now has annual receipts of over \$75,000,000, which is more than one-

tion for the general postoffice has condemned the present structure and demanded a great receiving and distributing depot further uptown. The demand has been heard, for as history shows that such demands have always been.

OYSTERING AND FARMING

They Give up the Tongs for Plouge.

SUMMER EXODUS NORTH

The Negro's Advancement Perceptible in the Character of His Work.—The Fruit Crop Bids Fair to Be a Good One.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) YORKTOWN, VA., May 3.—Since the closing of the oyster season, a week ago, the men who follow tongs oysters for a living, greatly augment the laboring class who work on the farms and truck patches. A very large per cent of the men have little ploughs of their own to till. A goodly number of them take up crabbing, fishing and clamming as summer avocations, but a surprising portion of them go North to either work in the oyster business with Staten Island firms or find positions with the large hotels and watering places as cooks, waiters, bell-boys, etc.

The darkey of to-day seems to be trying to take Booker Washington's advice and become good American citizens, a long way ahead of the low down negro of post-bellum days. This advance in intelligence is quite perceptible in the field hands, and their work shows the marked change. Farming operations are heavily handicapped by the lack of intelligent

help to such extent as to drive them from rural pursuits to city life. Were it not for the help that comes from the oystermen in their close season agriculture would suffer, and farming become a misnomer.

There is much complaint among the merchants and business people generally over the excessive freight rates charged by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad to local stations on the Peninsula Division. The wall of dissatisfaction is deep and long, heavy charges of complaint, permeate the atmosphere of the business world and rapid-fire charges of indignation threaten against the giant organization.

FRUIT CROP

From the amount of blossoms that now adorn the blackberry bushes of our public highway and hedges, the crop of that fruit will be both heavy and large. Every nook and corner of the old fields, every vacant spot along the hedge row is filled with the familiar white blossoms until the whole surface of the country is rich with a garland of beauty, full of the promise of the luscious fruit by the great national fete day in the early part of July.

The unique and infrequent sight of a blacksnake at bay and fighting for his life witnessed a few days ago just a few miles outside town. Startled in the roadway by a couple of negroes, a magnificent specimen of the serpentine life hastily sought refuge in a tree which he rapidly climbed to some distance above the ground, when he turned on his tormentors and put up a violent fight for his existence. Armed with long poles and stones the two darkeys kept up a broadside of activity, met at every turn with beautifully executed maneuvers by the serpent, who struck time and again at each opportunity to reach the course of his trouble. For half an hour or more there was a battle royal until a chance blow from the pole got in an extra good lick and stunned the snake which fell from his perch some twenty feet in the air with a deep thud. After killing him the serpent when stretched out measured nearly five feet from tip to tip.

RED MEN. A new tribe of Red Men was organized at Grafton a few nights since by Grand

Sachem B. M. Tennis, of Hampton. The affair took place in the assembly hall of the "Ancient Order of United Workmen," at Grafton, and was well attended by quite a number of visiting braves from the Hampton Lodge. The tribe is known as Delaware, No. 123, and enrolled thirty-two braves as charter members. The following gentlemen were elected to the official position in the new tribe: Mr. T. S. Harris, sachem; O. H. Shield, prophet; James Moore, senior sagamore; J. F. Smith, junior sagamore; P. A. White, chief of records; W. T. Wainwright, keeper of the wampum.

Crabs are being caught in large quantities and shipped to the nearby cities. Numbers of men and boys are engaged in the work, and prices have fallen considerably of late. In some instances ridiculously low figures have been realized, \$1.25 per barrel being an average, but as low as 50 cents for some stock has been realized.

Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Tolser and family, of Richmond, who have been the last six weeks here for their health, left in the early part of the week for Newport News and Old Point.

Mr. Don Cruikshank, who has been at John Hopkins Hospital for a week or ten days undergoing an operation on the jaw will return home in the morning greatly benefited by the treatment at that famous institution.

Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Cone and wife, of Baltimore, are expected here shortly to spend a few days with his old college chum, Dr. S. G. Cooke, who will entertain them at his country place, a mile or two out of town.

Miss Eva Cruikshank, who has been spending a month or more in Newport News, will arrive home to-day.

Beyond Anxiety.

First College Boy: "Hooray! My people have all turned Christian Scientists." Second College Boy: "Why such joy?" First College Boy: "Well, hitherto the only thing that has kept me from having a beautiful time has been the thought that it would worry them."—Harper's Bazar.

BIG CARNIVAL FOR BRISTOL

The City Is Dressed In Gala Attire for the Event.

AN ELEGANT WEDDING

A Secret Marriage of Bristol Young People That Would Leak Out—Wife of the Marrying Parson Returns from a Western Trip.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) BRISTOL, TENN., May 2.—Bristol is now ready for the big carnival, which opens next Monday morning and continues through the entire week. Quite a number of business houses and private residences have decorated for the occasion, and others will do so Monday, so that the national colors will be pretty much in evidence during the week. The carnival will be under the auspices of the two fire companies, and there is every indication of a successful event.

TEETER-WHITEY.

On last Wednesday evening, at Walnut Grove Church, five miles east of Bristol, Miss Ella Goodwin Whitten was united in marriage to Dr. William Haynes Teeter, the pastor of the church. Rev. Clarence M. Gordon, officiating. It was a most beautiful rural wedding, and was witnessed by a large number of relatives. The couple left immediately on a bridal tour through the South.

SECRET MARRIAGE.

A secret marriage, which occurred here some two weeks ago, has come to light, despite the efforts made to keep it dark. The contracting parties were Mr. Arthur B. Maxwell, a prominent young insurance man, and Miss Bessie Ball, the pretty and popular daughter of Mr. J. R. Ball, the Sixth Street merchant. It is understood the couple will locate in Knoxville, and Miss Louise Morrison, of Gate City, daughter of the late Judge H. S. K. Morrison, were married at Gate City last Wednesday afternoon. They are now enjoying a ten-day tour of Eastern cities.

MRS. PARSON'S WIFE.

Mrs. A. H. Burroughs, wife of the "marrying parson," has returned from Phoenix, Arizona, where she spent the winter with her son.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harrell, of Norfolk, are expected here by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harrell, at Hotel St. Lawrence.

Misses Sue and Blanche Dudley have returned to their home at Royal, Va., after a visit to Bristol relatives.

Miss Edna H. Chaffin, of Chaffin, Va., is the guest of friends here.

In Goldsboro. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) GOLDSDORO, N. C., May 2.—Miss Daisy M. Smith, of this city, has been elected by Thomas Ruffin Camp, United Confederate Veterans, of this county, to be their sponsor at the coming New Orleans reunion.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Broadhurst have returned from Richmond, where they went to visit their son, Mr. Frank Broadhurst, who is at St. Luke's Hospital, for treatment.

The marriage of Miss Lorna Street, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Street, took place at the home of the bride, 717 Y street, at 8 o'clock.

BROAD AND FIRST

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The Cash Store's May Sale

Look! What Unheard-of Prices.

POSITIVELY Richmond's most important and imposing Special May Sale. Tailored Suits at cut prices. Dress Goods at reduced prices. Wash Goods and White Goods at unheard-of prices unknown to the Richmond people.

Silk Waists.

Special Values. Wash Silk Waists, tucked and lace inserting, good quality silk; this is a great value at... \$2.19 Taffeta Silk Waist, tucked and hemstitched in the following colors: green, red, white and old rose, a genuine \$5 waist for... \$3.98 Beau de Cygne Silk Waist, only black and white left, tucked and trimmed in applique; a real \$7.50 waist for... \$5.98

Tailored Suits.

Reduced Prices. Spring Tailored Suits, light weight, a good cloth, well made, blouse jacket, trimmed in braid and silk drops, with full well-made skirt, that sold for \$10; our cash price is... \$4.98 Well-Tailored Suits, summer weight, all black, jacket lined with silk serge, a well-made full skirt, our low price was \$4;... \$9.00 A Nobby Suit, well-tailored, blouse trimmed in braid and silk drops, turn-back cuffs; a full skirt, plaited, trimmed to match; this is one of our \$20 jackets, position on back, with tabs, specials for Monday \$13.50

Dress Goods.

Our Cash Prices. Challies, striped, good styles in the following colors: pink, green, tan, blue, cream and black; these are sold regularly at 25c; our cash price makes them... 19c Corded Mohair, 36 inches wide, in large full line of colors; a good cloth at 48c, but our cash price 39c Voles and Etamines, in the spring shades; never sold for less than \$1; our cash price for Monday 69c

Spring Specials.

Our Cash Prices. Madras, 22 inches wide, in stripes and figures, a fine quality that sells for 15c; our cash price is 8c Medium-Weight Duck, in light and dark grounds, in rings, stripes and polka dots; this is a regular 10c quality, at 5c Mercerized Etamines and Oxford; these are extra wide, mercerized before they were woven, which makes the finish permanent; the same goods sold the first of the season at 25c to 30c; our cash price is 19c

Embroideries and Laces.

Our Cash Prices. Embroideries, narrow and wide, cambric edges and narrow; if you want 25c for our cash price 15c Embroideries, narrow and wide, Swiss edges and insertion goods that sold for a great deal more money; our price is 12 1/2c Imitation Cluny Laces, in narrow and wide bands, ranging in price from 10c to 35c; that are worth 48c from 15c to 25c

Second Floor

Specials. Ladies' Gauze Vests, nicely taped around the neck; we think this is a bargain at 5c Gauze Vests, in white and colored, in several styles; this is another second-floor bargain 12 1/2c Corset Covers, well made, trimmed in lace, really worth 10c for 10c Infants' Muslin Caps, a large number of styles to select from and we think it is the best Cap ever 48c sold for



This week the spring and summer season at the playhouses will begin in real earnest.

Manager Giffen returns from New York with his stock company that is to appear here in notable revivals. Little is known about the organization up to this time, beyond the fact that it will be made up of well known actors who have not figured in any of the companies that Mr. Giffen has so far presented. There has been talk of Hobart Bosworth as

financial success. Just at this time, when the road companies are getting into New York, Mr. Whitecar should have no difficulty in carrying out these intentions.

Charlie Rex, the popular business manager of the Leath circuit and manager of the Academy of Music in this city for Mr. Leath, will leave next Wednesday for New York. Mr. Rex is to have charge of several summer theatres, the list being headed by the pretty summer house at Buckroe Beach. He will organize an op-

er Giffen.

In the above connection it is not a little interesting to note that the Academics Musical Comedy Company played a record-breaking engagement at the Granby Theatre in Norfolk last week. Why the organization did not take in the Leath circuit theatres is a mystery that no one can solve. Every one recognizes the fact that the material was there, but it was not a box office success, which it is very emphatically in the houses of the Wells circuit, if the history in Norfolk last week repeats itself in Atlanta and Birmingham, where the company goes for the rest of the season.

Every one will be delighted to hear that Grace George is to return here next season. Her "Pretty Peggy" was the sensation of the past season in New York, and it is possible that this delightful actress may revive it again at the beginning of the next theatre season. So far nothing has been said as to the play she will present on tour. Mr. William A. Brady, her most astute manager, has made a new production for her each season so far, and each year he has exceeded all former effort. He has reached a point that he never thought it will be extremely difficult to excel.

Mr. Brady has booked Wilton Lackaye to appear under his management next season. This popular actor, who has not been seen here for several years, is to appear in a dramatization of "The Pitt" made for him by Channing Pollock, the business manager of Miss George, formerly dramatic editor of the Washington Times, and an author of some considerable achievement and decided charm.

Excitement and laughter reign supreme in the latest sensational melodrama, "A Ruined Life," which is to hold the boards at the Biograph this week, with the usual crowd from the city and suburbs. The plot is unusually startling and contains a beautiful Queen of the Gypsies, who, eighteen years prior to the beginning of the play, has been kidnapped by a tool of her father's, a notorious business partner. The poor tool after becoming wealthy in the African diamond mines returns and returns to England to establish the girl in her proper position, but just as the need father and son weary after the many years of tireless search endeavoring to find his lost child, is about to discover his darling one, the same villain stabs the father to the heart, unseen by any one. The crime is fastened upon the girl, who, however, remains true and devoted to righting a wrong and clearing up the mystery attached to the murder.

Four magnificent and massive acts of scenery are used in the presentation, a double length baggage car being required to transport the effects and properties. Beautiful costuming of the ladies in the company is a really important feature, and the cast is composed of footlights and stage stars, and is favorably known. Miss Elsie Crescy, a young, artistic and beautiful leading woman, enacts the part of "Annie," the Gypsy Queen, and as the character is eminently suited to her talents she bids fair to make as great a success in "A Ruined Life" as she did in the last season in "A Gambler's Daughter."

Lord Roberts Wants to Visit Us.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch Copyright, 1908)

LONDON, May 2.—Lord Roberts' eager new visit to America grows upon the doughty little general, and his desire undoubtedly will be gratified before many months. During the past year all the distinguished Americans visiting London have pressed invitations upon him. Accordingly "Bobby" has been seeking a mission to give official countenance to the visit. He is reported to have found it in a review of the Canadian militia in recognition of their war services.

Roberts probably will be accompanied by his family, who also are eager to visit New York, Washington, Chicago, and Boston. Roberts probably will accompany the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of London, who are slated to visit Boston in September.

A New Yorker, who dined Roberts yesterday told the "American" that Roberts says nothing about a visit to the United States as "Bobby" is simply unaffected and democratic, despite his titles. He is certain to capture the affections of the American public, even if he had a general introduction in Niagara's gorges.

The Cat Is Out of The Bag!

EVERYONE has found the advantage of dealing with us. It doesn't take long to find it out. Satisfying purchasers and moderate prices settles the question of where to buy, and you can't test us any better than by pricing our Straw Matings, Oil-Cloths, Linoleums, Druggets and other Floor Coverings. Anyway, the large amount of these goods we're now selling makes us think so. Some prices: Straw Matings, 90 per yard to 75c; Linoleum, in any quantity you want, \$1.12 1/2; usually sells for \$1.87 1/2 to \$1.65.

The ALASKA Refrigerators! The last lot has only been in a few days; yet we sent in another large car-load order Friday evening. How is that for business? It's the absolutely safe guarantee we are enabled to give our customers on it by having handled them exclusively during the past fourteen years that does the business. Buy an ALASKA Refrigerator and you will positively not get stuck. Prices of Refrigerators, \$7.75 to \$150.00. Large assortment to select from.

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